

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 068398

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, TU

SUBJECT: US-TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: (A) ANKARA 1956, (B) 67375

1. DEPARTMENT ENDORSES FULLY POSITION YOU TOOK WITH
ELEKDAG IN MARCH 14 CONVERSATION CONCERNING US-TURKISH
RELATIONS. IN ADDITION TO REITERATING POINTS WHICH YOU
MADE TO ELEKDAG AND INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF B,
PARTICULARLY RE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH MCNAMARA,
YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN YOUR NEXT CONVERSATION WITH
ELEKDAG AND/OR OKCUN OR WITH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT SHOULD
YOU SEE HIM IN NEXT FEW DAYS:

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(A) SECRETARY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT HIS STATEMENT TO
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MARCH 9 WAS CONSISTENT
WITH PAST EXPRESSIONS OF ADMINISTRATION PUBLIC POSITION ON
DCA AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SITUATION, AND ALSO CON-
SISTENT WITH HIS EXCHANGES WITH ECEVIT. WE HAVE SEEN
INDICATIONS IN TURKISH PRESS THAT THE SECRETARY'S ANSWER

TO SENATOR SCHWEIKER WAS MEANT TO BE "PUBLIC EXPRESSION" OF U.S. POLICY ON EVE OF SUMMIT AS REQUESTED IN LAST WEEK'S EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY. IT WAS NO SUCH THING. IT WAS SIMPLY A ROUTINE ANSWER AT THE END OF A LONG HEARING ON UNRELATED

SUBJECTS. MOREOVER, THE PRESS HAS TENDED TO SHORTEN AND THEREBY MAKE THE ANSWER APPEAR FAR MORE BLUNT THAN WAS IN FACT THE CASE (STATE 063814).

(B) DEPARTMENT HAS ATTEMPTED TO COOL ATMOSPHERE WHICH WAS HEATED UP BY TURKISH STATEMENTS LAST WEEKEND. WE HA'E DONE SO THROUGH MARCH 13 HODDING CARTER PRESS BRIEFING, NIMETZ/VEST MARCH 13 MEETING WITH ESENBEL, AND MARCH 15 NIMETZ INTERVIEW WITH "HURRIYET".

(C) WE UNDERSTAND TURKISH CONCERNS AND UNEASE,BUT WE FEEL IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT TACTICS FOR HANDLING MATTER BOTH WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND WITH CONGRESS BE LEFT WITH THE SECRETARY AND OTHER SENIOR USG OFFICIALS. WE WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT IN FUTURE WE WOULD BOTH TRY TO AVOID PUBLIC EXCHANGES BUT RATHER SEEK TO MAKE FULL USE OF AMBASSADOR SPIERS AND AMBASSADOR ESENBEL.

(D) ADMINISTRATION DOES WANT TO GO FORWARD IN CONGRESS WITH DCA, BUT WE MUST BE QUITE FRANK IN SAYING THAT
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"REVERSE LINKAGE" WHICH GOT NOW SEEMS TO BE CONSIDERING WOULD BE MOST UNHELPFUL. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT SHOULD TURKISH CYPRIOTS DELAY COMING FORWARD WITH PROMISED CYPRUS PROPOSALS--AND SHOULD IT BE KNOWN THAT THIS WAS DUE TO TURKISH PIQUE--WE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY DEMONSTRATING THAT ECEVIT'S CYPRUS INITIATIVE IS FINDING EXPRESSION IN CONCRETE WAYS. WE WOULD ALSO HAVE DIFFICULTY RESPONDING TO AMERICANS WHO FELT WE WERE NOW BEING PRESSURED AND WHO WOULD URGE DELAY IN ADMINISTRATION ACTION SO THAT SITUATION COULD CLARIFY ITSELF.

(D) WE HAVE ON MANY OCCASIONS SUPPORTED AND WELCOMED ECEVIT'S FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES AND WILL CONTINUE TO FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO. WE HAVE ALSO REFRAINED FROM INVOLVING OURSELVES IN SUBSTANTIVE WAY IN ANY OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEMS, A POSTURE WE FEEL IS CON-SONANT WITH TURKISH EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN. WE HAVE NEVER SAID THAT TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS MUST BE ACCEPTED OR DEEMED ACCEPTABLE BY THE GREEK SIDE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ENCOURAGED THEM TO LOOK UPON PROPOSALS WITH OPEN MIND. IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE AT THIS STAGE IF THE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY ECEVIT'S INITIATIVE WERE NOT

PURSUED. VANCE

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